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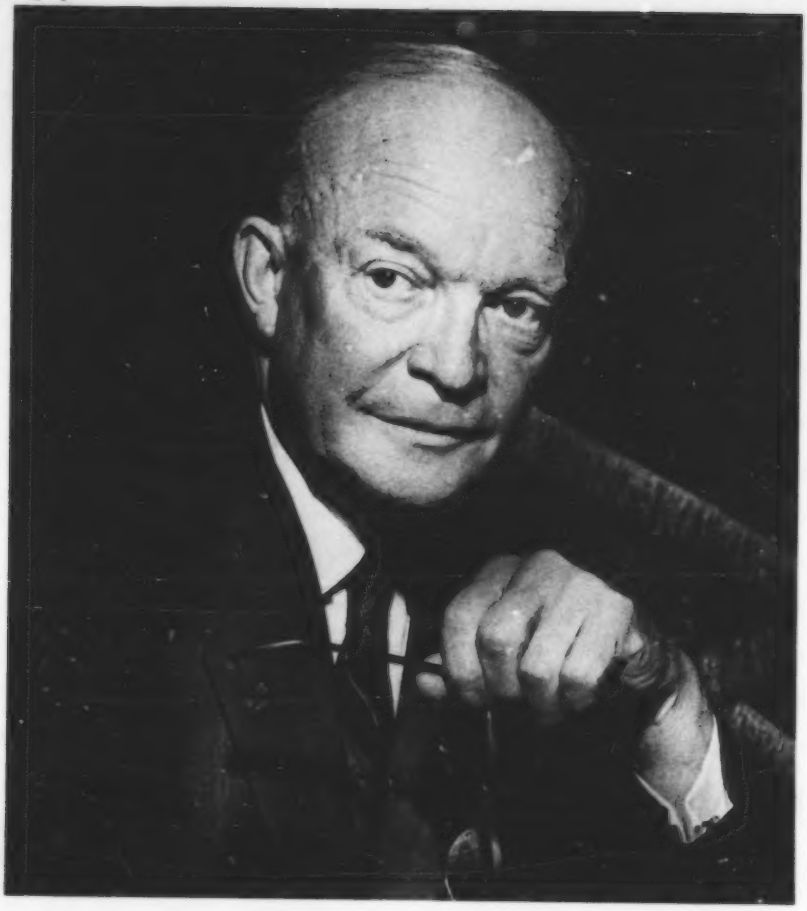

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THE

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

ABILENE, KANSAS

National Archives and Records Administration

AE 1.102:

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library was established to preserve the papers, books, and other historical materials relating to former President Eisenhower and to make them available to the people in a place designed for exhibit and research. It is administered by the National Archives and Records Administration as an integral part of the Nation's record keeping system and is also a part of its system of presidential libraries.

The Library building was built and equipped, without cost to the United States Government, through contributions from thousands of friends and admirers of President Eisenhower. The Library was dedicated on May 1, 1962. Designed as a research institution, the exterior is Kansas Limestone, and provides a contrast to the extensive use of imported marble in the interior of the building. The walls of the lobby and corridors are of bookmatched Loredo Chiaro marble from Italy. Floors in the public areas are Roman Travertine trimmed with Breche d'Alep and Rouge Fleuri marble from France. The ornamental bronze work reflects the Great Plains environment by the use of a motif of buffalo heads and native bluestem grass.

The research parts of the Library include a research room, archival stacks, offices for the staff, a photographic laboratory, and an auditorium. Scholars have come from all over the world to use these facilities.

Gallery areas on the first and second floors of the Library usually contain temporary and traveling exhibits. These exhibits are the result of the efforts of the museum staff of the Library.

LIBRARY

When this library is filled with documents, and scholars come here to probe into some of the facts of the past half century, I hope that they, as we today, are concerned primarily with the ideals, principles, and trends that provide guides to a free, rich, peaceful future in which all peoples can achieve ever-rising levels of human well-being.

Those who have so generously made possible the construction of this library do not seek reward or acclaim. Yet, I profoundly believe that they feel deep gratification in the knowledge that thus they may have helped in some small measure to assure the Nation's eternal adherence to these simple ideals and principles as free men shape historic trends toward noble goals.

PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

AT THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONIES FOR THE LIBRARY

OCTOBER 13, 1959

The Eisenhower Center

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library is set in a complex of five buildings known as the Eisenhower Center. The Center includes, in addition to the Library building, the Visitors' Center, Family Home (on its original site), the Museum, and the Place of Meditation. A motion picture, shown in the auditorium of the Visitors' Center reviews the life and work of Dwight D. Eisenhower, and explains the functions of the Library in those areas not open to the general public. The Visitors' Center also contains a sales desk, and public restrooms.

The Eisenhower Family Home

A simple frame structure, typical of family homes in Kansas in the late nineteenth century, the Eisenhower Home was occupied by members of the family from 1898 until 1946. Following the death of Mrs. Ida Elizabeth Eisenhower, in 1946, her sons gave the home to the Eisenhower Foundation. The interior, with the family furniture and mementos arranged as they were at the time of Ida Eisenhower's death, is shown to visitors by trained guides.

The Museum

To the east of the Family Home is the Museum. Built by the Eisenhower Foundation with funds raised through public gifts, it is constructed of Kansas Limestone, and was dedicated on Veterans' Day, 1954. The Museum and the Family Home, including their contents were given to the United States by the Eisenhower Foundation in November, 1966. In 1971, an addition was completed which doubled the exhibit space of the original building.

In the lobby of the Museum are murals depicting General Eisenhower's life and career from his early childhood through his service as President of the United States. A gift from the Edwin Austin Abbey Memorial Trust, the murals were painted by Louis Bouche and Ross Moffett.

Exhibits in five major galleries contain items associated with President Eisenhower, his wife, Mamie Doud Eisenhower, and other members of the Eisenhower family. These exhibits range from presidential gifts from heads of state around the world, to the simple artifacts of everyday life. The materials are arranged in both a chronological order as well as thematically, and the displays are designed to be self-guided.

Place of Meditation

This building is the final resting place of Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mamie Doud Eisenhower, and their first-born son, Doud Dwight Eisenhower. Built of native limestone, it harmonizes with the other modern structures of the Center. At the far east side of the mall, facing the Place of Meditation, is a unique feature of the grounds. A group of monumental pylons, originally presented by the Kansas Daughters of the American Revolution and the Soroptomist Clubs of Kansas, contain prose statements about the importance of the Eisenhower Family to the State of Kansas, and to the Nation.

READEX FICHE best copy available

PLACE OF MEDITATION

Supreme Headquarters
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Office of the Supreme Commander

C/S.

(1) The mission of this Allied Force was fulfilled at 3.00 a.m., local time, May 7, 1945. Eisenhower.

(2) To C/S.

a detailed report on signing of armistice and my recommendation respecting formal ~~for~~ announcement follow immediately. ~~I believe~~ ~~ordered~~ although hostilities do not officially cease until one minute after midnight on ~~May~~ night of May 8/9, I believe as explained in foregoing telegram to following that announcement should be released from that London can be achieved. Eisenhower

THE DOCUMENT REPRODUCED ABOVE IS GENERAL EISENHOWER'S FIRST REPORT NOTING THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, MAY 7, 1945.

THE EISENHOWER CRYSTAL, DESIGNED BY DONALD POLLARD FOR STEUBEN GLASS. THIS ENGRAVED LEAD-CRYSTAL WAS DESIGNED TO SYMBOLIZE PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S CRUSADE FOR PEACE.

HOURS AND FEES

- The Eisenhower Center is located in Abilene, Kansas, two miles south of the Abilene exit, off Interstate 70, on Kansas Highway 15 (also called Buckeye Avenue). All buildings at the Center are open every day, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. throughout the year, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.
- A fee of $1.00 for all persons 16 years of age and over is charged for admission to the exhibit areas of the Museum. No fee is charged at the other buildings.
- Handicapped facilities consist of chair lifts at the Home, Museum, and Library. Level entrances are provided at the Visitors Center and Place of Meditation. Wheel chair ramps are also located at the rear entrances to the Museum and Library buildings. Please advise sales desk personnel in the Visitors' Center if there is a need to use these ramps.
- A gift fund is maintained by the Library, and private donations to this fund are used to provide services not covered by other funding. Such donations are tax exempt.
- The research facilities of the Library are open Monday through Friday, excluding Holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. No fee is charged for admission to the research facilities, but advance, written application must be made to the Director.